

Dear Senator Feldman, Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

My name is Eugene "Buck" DeVan. My wife and I are the principal owners of a business in your district, Charm City Hemp Premium CBD Store. .

We founded Charm City Hemp in 2019 and opened our flagship store in Belvedere Square Market in Baltimore. We now have four retail store locations, three in Baltimore City, and another in downtown Frederick. We are currently negotiating a new lease for a retail store in Bel Air. All of these storefronts are in very high-profile locations in their areas, and we are well known and respected throughout these areas.

Charm City Hemp is Maryland's premier retail boutique for CBD and Hemp-derived products. We have established a great reputation over the past 3 years for our responsible business practices, and for only carrying the cleanest, safest, and most rigorously tested hemp products available in the marketplace while keeping these products out of the hands of minors. Charm City Hemp serves tens of thousands of customers in Baltimore City and Frederick, and many of those customers live in underserved community areas and neighborhoods.

Charm City Hemp was founded on the belief that CBD and hemp-derived products are a healthy and natural alternative for people suffering from various health problems like stress, anxiety, sleep problems, pain and inflammation, etc. Our annual sales are in the millions of dollars and we employ over 20 Marylanders, many of whom are from minority groups and under-served communities.

We have helped thousands of people with these health issues over the past three years, but our business is now under serious threat of being essentially exterminated by the Cannabis Reform Bill (HB1219/SB516) which contains language that would cripple the hemp industry in Maryland and **would force us to close down all four of our storefronts in these high-profile locations.**

In addition, all of our 20+ Maryland employees would also be put out of work should this bill pass as it is currently written.

Firstly, we would like to invite you to personally visit one of our stores to see for yourself what we do and how we are helping thousands of people in Maryland.

We are also asking for your help in **AMENDING this bill.**

We need your help to save the Maryland Hemp Industry by amending the Cannabis Reform Bill (HB1219/SB516) to change the permissible THC cap for hemp products that can be sold without an adult use license from what's currently in the bill [.5mg per serving and 2.5mg per package] to products with less than 0.3% Delta 9 THC.

We would additionally like for hemp products to be regulated and tested within the newly formed Cannabis Regulation and Enforcement Division and for there to be hemp specific licenses that go to those businesses currently growing, processing, and selling these low THC products. The retail license would require that 90% of the sales of the current businesses be from hemp products.

Thank you again for taking the time to read this letter and for taking the time to visit one our stores in person.

We have also enclosed separate attachments showing examples of the comprehensive lab reports and testing performed on products that we sell in our stores.

Sincerely,

Buck DeVan, Melissa Cox, and Randy Shayotovich
Charm City Hemp, LLC

Buck DeVan Cell: 858-349-4512